

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 16-20 and 31-33 are allowed. Claims 4-7, 9, 12, 22, 23, 27, 28, 34-36, 38-42, 44, and 45 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-3, 14, 15, 21, 24-26, 29, 30, 37, 40, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by previously-cited Wood et al. (US 5,851,186). Claims 8, 10, 11, and 13 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Wood et al. in view of previously-cited Falsetti et al. (US 5,445,029). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as set forth below.

Claim 1 is amended herein to incorporate a modified version of the limitations of claim 2. Support for the amendment can be found at page 14, lines 10-18 of the present specification. Thus, claim 1 requires that the host computer includes a determination means for analyzing the specimen inspection data and determining whether or not a specimen contains a defect. Applicant respectfully submits that Wood et al. do not teach or suggest this feature of the claim. Wood et al. relates to a medical ultrasonic diagnostic imaging system capable of being accessed over data communication networks. The system of Wood et al. includes a scanhead 12 for transmitting ultrasonic waves and receiving echoes of the waves for processing by an image processor 16. The images are stored in a storage medium 24 and can be output to a system display 26. In other words, Wood et al. disclose a system which collects images for later evaluation by medical personnel. To the contrary, Wood et al. do not disclose determining whether or not a specimen contains a defect. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Wood et al.

Also, claims 3-7, 9, 12, 14, and 15 are allowable over the prior art, at least because of their dependence from claim 1.

With respect to claim 21, Applicant submits that Wood et al. fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 21. In particular, claim 21 requires an external storage medium for storing general characteristic data of each of the ultrasonic probes. The Examiner cites the storage medium 24 of Wood et al. as allegedly corresponding to the claimed external storage medium, but Applicant disagrees. The storage medium 24 is for storing images and diagnostic reports. See col. 3, lines 6-20. By contrast, the external storage medium of claim 21 of the present invention is for storing general characteristic data of each of the ultrasonic probes. Thus, Wood et al. do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 21, and claim 21 is not anticipated by Wood et al.

Furthermore, claims 22-25 and 34-38 are allowable over the prior art, at least because of their dependence from claim 21.

Similarly, claim 26 requires that each of the ultrasonic probes is provided with its own storage device for storing general characteristic data of the ultrasonic probe. The Examiner asserts that the storage medium 24 of Wood et al. corresponds to the claimed external storage medium, but Applicant disagrees, as set forth above in relation to claim 21. Accordingly, Wood et al. do not teach or suggest that each of the ultrasonic probes is provided with its own storage device for storing general characteristic data of the ultrasonic probe.

Therefore, claim 26 and its dependent claims 27-30 and 39-45 are not anticipated by Wood et al.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/214,865

With regard to claims 8, 10, 11, and 13, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable over the prior art, at least because Falsetti et al. fail to make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Wood et al.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

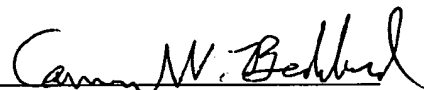
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE


Cameron W. Beddard
Registration No. 46,545

Date: February 24, 2003

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 2 is cancelled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1: (Three Times Amended) An ultrasonic inspection system management system comprising:

multiple ultrasonic inspection systems each including a probe and a system main body,
a host computer,

a transmission line for connecting said multiple ultrasonic inspection systems and said host computer, and

a data storage section, characterized in that said host computer comprises data collection means for collecting data provided by said multiple ultrasonic inspection systems via said transmission line and storing the data in said data storage section;

wherein the data provided by said multiple ultrasonic inspection systems is stored in the single data storage section[.];

wherein the data is specimen inspection data and wherein said host computer further includes a determination means for analyzing the specimen inspection data and determining whether or not a specimen contains a defect.